

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CGEN, SA
SUBJ: BACKGROUND TO RECENT ARRESTS OF ALCOHOL LAW VIOLATORS

REF: (A) JIDDA 4701, (B) JIDDA 2077, (C) JIDDA 2076

1. REFTELS ARE MOST RECENT IN ARREST CASES AND DEPORTATION (REF A) OF THREE AMCIT SAUDIA EMPLOYEES, AND (REF B AND C) ESCAPE FROM CONFINEMENT OF TWO OTHERS. ALL WERE TAKEN ON CHARGES OF MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF ALCOHOL.

2. IN DISCUSSION 9 JULY 1978 WITH SAUDI DIRECTOR GENERAL SHEIKH KAMEL SINDI ON UNRELATED CASE (JIDDA 5060 NOTAL), CONSUL GENERAL RECEIVED INTERESTING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THESE CASES.

3. SHEIKH KAMEL COMMENCED WITH LECTURE ON NEED FOR FOREIGN RESIDENTS TO OBEY SAUDI LAW (TO WHICH CONSUL GENERAL HEARTILY AGREED) AND FURTHER NEED NOT TO ABUSE FAVORS GRANTED BY AUTHORITIES TO MAKE FOREIGNERS' LIVES A LITTLE EASIER. HE WAS DISAPPOINTED AT ABUSE OF TACIT ALLOWANCE OF "HOMEBREW" ACTIVITIES BY FOREIGNERS FOR THEIR OWN USE WHEN THEY COMMENCE TO SELL ALCOHOLIC DRINK TO SAUDIS. HE SAID SUCH ABUSE WAS BEHIND ARREST (IN TWO SEPARATE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CASES) OF FIVE SAUDI EMPLOYEES CITED ABOVE.

4. HE AS EVEN MORE AGGRIEVED AT ESCAPE FROM AIR BASE DETENTION BY FERREIRA AND SEIFERT. AIR BASE DETENTION INSTEAD OF OLD AND OVERCROWDED CENTRAL PRISON HAD BEEN GRANTED AT SAUDIA'S REQUEST AND ESCAPE HURT SAUDIA'S REPUTATION, AIR BASE COMMANDER AND STAFF AND REMAINING AMERICAN PRISONERS. EVEN FUTURE SAUDIA

OFFENDERS WILL NOW SUFFER PRIMITIVE CENTRAL PRISON DETENTION INSTEAD OF MORE COMFORTABLE AND OPEN AIR BASE JAIL.

5. PRESSED BY CONSUL GENERAL, SHEIKH KAMEL CONFIRMED THAT OTHER THREE ARRESTED (GRANT, KENNEDY AND REITVELD) HAD BEEN TIPPED TO POLICE BY SAUDIA SECURITY FORCES. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THIS WAS ONLY DONE AFTER NUMEROUS COMPLAINTES FROM COMPOUND NEIGHBORS ABOUT NOISE, TRAFFIC, DANGER TO CHILDREN AND RUDENESS TO WOMEN AND YOUNG GIRLS THAT CONSTANT FLOW OF "CUSTOMERS" CREATED.

6. CONSUL GENERAL AGREED TO COOPERATE WITH SAUDIA'S RECRUITMENT, TRAINING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS STAFF IN "PREVENTIVE ACTION" TO EDUCATE AMCIT STAFF ON OBLIGATIONS TO SAUDI LAW AND SOCIETY.
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